

# **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



:  
: F A M I N E C A M P A I G N R O U N D U P :  
:

CROPS IMPROVE—USDA WAITING FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE

Although 1946 crop prospects continue to improve, the Department of Agriculture is still planning to wait until September before considering possibilities of easing domestic restrictions on grain consumption.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson went on record twice in early summer stating that the Department will survey the grain picture around September 1.

A report of UNRRA on July 25 concluded that all of the foreign countries now dependent on UNRRA will continue during 1947 to need imports "to sustain a minimum standard of life for their people."

Meanwhile, the supply side of the food picture gets brighter. A special mid-July forecast by the Department of Agriculture points to record-breaking crops for both corn and wheat. Here's the report:

Corn: Forecast jumped 146 million bushels in 15 days. Prospects now point to crop of 3,487,976,000 bushels, largest on record and nearly 500 million bushels above 1945.

Wheat: Forecast increased by 42 million bushels in 15 days. Harvest of 1,132,075,000 bushels indicated, surpassing the record production of last year by 9 million bushels. The July 1 carryover, however, is considerably less than a year ago.

Conditions for wheat have ranged from favorable to ideal, both for filling of winter wheat and for development of spring wheat. Conditions for corn development are described as "favorable to ideal or perfect."

\* \* \* \* \*

UNRRA REPORTS ON FUTURE FOOD NEEDS

Around \$1.1 billion worth of food may be required for countries now dependent upon UNRRA between August of this year and the harvest of 1947, according to a report issued by UNRRA July 25.

It is likely, however, that these imports will have to be reduced to about \$750 million because of the world shortages of basic foods such as cereals and fats, the report stated.

In any event, the report stated, the UNRRA-dependent peoples will need continued food imports to sustain a minimum standard of living. The report which considers future policy for the work now carried on by UNRRA is expected to be discussed at the international conference in Geneva on August 5.

UNRRA points out that to date no funds are available for continuing this relief work in 1947.

"Some agency or agencies, national or international, will have to find the means to procure and ship this food or some of these importing countries will be in a worse position two years after the war than they were during 1945 and 1946," the report said.

Imports of seed and fertilizer to stimulate food production will be as important in 1947 as imports of food, it added.

\* \* \* \*

#### EUROPEAN REPORTS TO UNRRA

\*\*\*With the Czechoslovakian harvest underway, the agriculture ministry has announced increases up to 25 percent in grain prices for the new crop. The minister said this price increase to farmers would help bridge the gap between agricultural and industrial incomes. Bread prices will not be increased because improved distribution and elimination of excess profits for middlemen are expected to absorb the difference.

\*\*\*Cereal crops in Greece are expected to be 5,000 tons under the 1935-38 average but wheat will reach the pre-war level of 770,000 tons.

\*\*\*Of the 23,900,000 people in Poland, 800,000 are invalids;—1,500,000 are sick people;—2,000,000 are children whose parents are too poor to support them;—and 4,000,000 are people who have no houses.

\*\*\*While the UNRRA mission chief in Poland reports that the food crisis has eased, no effort can be spared to continue the import rate that prevailed in June until the new harvest becomes available. Widespread hunger was averted by the arrival during June of 77,000 tons of grain from the U.S., Canada, and Argentina and 21,000 tons of rye and barley from Russia.

\* \* \* \*

## CRISIS OVER? LOOK AT CHINA

More food and medical supplies plus the means of distributing them are needed to alleviate the critical situation of 16 million persons in South Hunan and North Kwangsi provinces of China, according to a report by UNRRA investigators now surveying the famine areas of China.

"There are now an estimated six million persons in Kwangsi province and 10 million more in South Hunana province who are rapidly becoming physically weakened as a result of acute starvation," the report states.

"Generally speaking, these people are too poor to help even those who are more destitute than themselves. There is not now enough stored food available at any price within these provinces to meet immediate needs."

Agricultural surveys in South Hunan indicate that only 60 to 80 percent of the crop will be harvested, depending on the intensity of the drought. Other factors which will cause a low yield are lack of buffalo as draught animals, seed, irrigation, labor and insecticides. These conditions probably will prevail to some extent next year also.

In North Kwangsi, only 25 percent of the normal crop land is planted. It is expected that only 2,333,000 to 2,666,000 tons of crops may be harvested as against a normal yield of 3,333,000 tons.

Reports indicate that malaria is epidemic in Kwangsi and that relapsing fever, dysentery, some cholera and many other infectious diseases are present in Hunan.

The Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in both provinces is attempting to administer relief, but supplies are inadequate. Food and medicine available meet only a small percentage of requirements for those in acute need. Greatest difficulty in receiving supplies, observers report, results from lack of adequate transportation and the military situation.

\* \* \* \*

## RICE ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

Civilians will be allocated approximately 8 million 100-pound bags of milled rice during the 12 months ending June 30, 1947, compared with 7 million bags consumed in the corresponding period 1945-46 according to the Department of Agriculture.

The total allocable supply has been estimated at approximately 19 million bags -- about the same as last year. Commercial exports this year are expected to total about 4,251,000 bags, shipments to United States territories about 3,104,000 bags, USDA deliveries to the Philippines and UNRRA (China) about 3,032,000 bags, and to military and war services about 586,000 bags.

\* \* \* \*



## CANADA'S GRAIN OUTLOOK GOOD

The condition of the grain crop in Canada is generally favorable, with a higher-than-average wheat crop in prospect. The condition of other grains, though better than a year ago, was still below average at the end of June.

The condition of the growing wheat crop, as of June 30, was officially placed at 122 percent of the long-time average yield per acre. The condition a year earlier was reported at average, or 100 percent.

While no official estimates will be available until September, on the basis of the present prospects a crop of more than 400 million bushels seems indicated. Ultimate yields naturally depend on weather conditions up to the time of harvest, as well as on the extent of any damage from plant disease or insect infestation that may occur during the remainder of the season.

\* \* \* \*

## ARGENTINE WHEAT MILLINGS SET RECORD

Wheat milled in Argentina during the calendar year 1945 exceeded all previous grindings, according to recent reports. Millings continued at a high rate during the first half of 1946 on the basis of unofficial estimates.

The record figure of 97,737,000 bushels of wheat ground at an extraction rate of 71 percent yielded 41,645,000 hundred weight of flour. Flour exports, though larger than average, did not increase in proportion to the expanded flour output, and increased per capita consumption is indicated.

Milling activity in Argentina shows a marked increase since 1941, with the output for both 1944 and 1945 more than 30 percent above the average flour outturn for the 10 years ended with 1938.

Exports of flour during 1945 are placed at 3.9 million bags. At that figure the movement was almost twice the average during 1929-1938, though somewhat less than the 4.9 million bags reported for 1944.

\* \* \* \*

## CHINESE CROPS BELOW AVERAGE

China's crops for 1946 indicate large production deficits compared to the average annual production for 1931-37, according to a survey of the far eastern country by UNRRA Shanghai office.

Rice production is estimated to be at 39.5 million tons as compared with 45.3 million tons during prewar years. The 1946 wheat crop, predicted at 22.4 million tons, shows a gain over last year's 18.6 million tons but is still slightly below the pre-war average of 22,640,000 tons.

While the estimate of the 1946 crops is only 10 percent below pre-war averages, this deficit becomes more significant because of population gains, despite war losses, and the drastic reduction in reserves of food.

Two million acres of rice and wheat land were flooded as war measures and will not be in production until next year when Yellow River dikes are expected to be repaired. Drought and lack of fertilizer in South China have further cut yields.

Prospects are good for next year. War ravaged land will return to production assisted by an UNRRA rehabilitation program of fertilizers, insecticides, seeds, farm tractors and modern farming methods now being taught to the Chinese.

\* \* \* \*

:  
: ACTION :  
:

#### City Famine Emergency Committees

Local chairmen have been sent memorandums relating to new USDA display materials: (1) an especially prepared window display and (2) the "Am I Proud" canning poster.

Another memorandum called attention to the event in which wives of Cabinet members and other prominent officials participated in the conservation of peaches at the Washington Community Canning Center. This canning event received nationwide press play and was released by 3 newsreels--Paramount, Fox Movietone, and MGM. It was suggested that local chairmen stimulate similar food preservation activities in which the wives of the mayor and other city officials and prominent citizens participate.

At the suggestion of the DETROIT Famine Emergency Committee, Honorary Chairman and Mayor Edward J. Jefferies, Jr., issued a proclamation designating July 14 as Famine Emergency Sunday. The local Council of Churches cooperated in mailing the proclamation and an 8-page enclosure of background material on famine to over 700 Protestant churches. The Catholic diocese of Detroit assisted in the mailing of similar material to 165 Catholic churches, and the Jewish Community Council sent the material to 40 synagogues. Excellent cooperation in publicizing Famine Emergency Sunday was given by the church editors of the metropolitan papers.

For additional coverage, the Detroit Council of Churches is mailing famine material to 100 summer camps and Bible Schools for use in youth groups' activities. The Detroit Public Library has presented an evening program of films and speakers--subject "What Detroit Citizens Can Do For Famine Relief." A famine relief exhibit is on display throughout July, not only in the main library, but also in the 28 branch libraries of the City.

Chairman Albert J. Robertson in DES MOINES reported contacts with youth organizations for the purpose of stimulating interest in conservation at summer camps; cooperation of Red Cross, and intensive newspaper advertising and window display activities of the Retailers' War Activities Committee.

Chairman J. S. Crutchfield of PITTSBURGH is giving wide distribution to a comprehensive list of conservation suggestions developed by the Committee. Emphasis is on food preservation in which 4 home service directors of utility companies are participating. This committee, recognizing the importance of stressing the alternate and plentiful foods, is working closely with local USDA officials in endeavoring to develop a daily Food Bulletin for press and radio.

The YONKERS, N. Y. Committee reports issuance of a proclamation by the mayor, a personally addressed letter by the mayor to restaurant operators, the preparation and issuance of several thousand copies of a food conservation pledge, and a general appeal to citizen clubs and other organizations to restrict menus for all banquets, luncheons, and parties. Mrs. Marie F. Kirwan is chairman.

In NEW YORK CITY more than 200,000 pieces of conservation material were distributed on request from organizations, committees, schools and individuals. The local Famine Emergency Committee reports that in late June alone more than 50,000 copies of the "Share Food Save Lives" leaflet, the Presidential message poster, the home canning poster, and the locally-developed potato poster were distributed in the New York area.

#### Nutrition Committees At Work

The Nutrition Programs Office of FEA had received reports on the famine emergency activities of nutrition committees in 24 states and in Chicago and New York City.

After the first appeals for action on food conservation, many state nutrition committees met to coordinate the efforts of agencies and groups represented on the committee. Letters and the famine emergency material were sent to county and local nutrition committees, and subcommittees were appointed to develop suggestions and special information releases.

Radio and press releases have been prepared in the name of nutrition committee chairmen or prominent members; talks have been given before a variety of groups and organizations; practical suggestions for conserving wheat and other grain foods and fats and oils, as well as material on preventing waste have been prepared and distributed.

The following excerpts indicate measures taken by the nutrition committees:

Connecticut.-- An exhibit entitled "Food for Europe's Hungry" was prepared and made available to local communities. Arrangements were made to get the famine emergency message to smaller public eating places not likely to be affiliated with restaurant associations, and to contact social and professional clubs.



South Carolina.-- State Committee urged that abundant foods be used in place of wheat; that local potatoes be used where possible; and that fresh fruit, especially peaches, be used in place of pastries, cakes, and desserts.

Louisiana.-- The April issue of "Lifting the Lid," distributed monthly by the State Nutrition Committee, including suggestions on ways to conserve, facts about the world food picture, and reports of famine emergency activities of parish nutrition committees.

Vermont.-- The State Nutrition Committee raised funds to finance work of the Vermont Famine Relief Committee.

Oklahoma.-- County committees held meetings to reach local cafe and cafeteria managers as well as homemakers.

South Dakota.-- The chairman of the State Nutrition Committee directed a letter to home economists urging their participation in the Famine Emergency Campaign.

Utah.-- Three subcommittees were responsible for (a) radio--to arrange for a daily 5-minute program; (b) printed publicity--to prepare news editorials, copy for women's pages, and articles for magazines published within the state; and (c) to work with public food service organizations.

New York.-- On July 25 and 26 the State Nutrition Committee held a Nutrition Institute to which each local committee was urged to send two delegates.

The Women

Mrs. Dora H. Stockman, Director of Public Relations for Michigan State Grange, has called upon Michigan Grangers to do their bit to relieve starvation in war devastated countries.

A recent trip to Florida by Mrs. Stockman, where she saw much food waste led to starting the ball rolling in the "clean plate" groove. Mrs. Stockman says, "People in this country still have plenty of food. After each meal, there remains milk and vegetables. This goes to feed the hogs or into the garbage. Of course country folk will feed that scraps diverted to livestock feeding is not a waste--but there are starving people abroad to be considered."

She suggests the following ways to serve left-overs. "Serve two kinds of vegetables when one is not enough. Use remaining toast and bread in puddings. Mix fruits. I have mixed a little pineapple, oranges and a few strawberries in a delicious dessert. Meat scraps maybe used in hash and stews. Good old fashioned dumplings also take up the slack."

\* \* \* \* \*

Women's Auxiliary News, CIO, for July says: "Food Insurance is needed this year. Needs for food are enormous and the processing industry is laboring under many difficulties and uncertainties. A vast amount of food preserved at home or in community centers is necessary in order to make available other food supplies to insure against starvation in other lands and short supplies here at home."

\* \* \* \* \*

